

November 2003

SOUTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Phil Tilt

Overview

The Southern Command continues to operate with a substantial lack of trained personnel to fill vacant positions. There are currently 11 new troopers in the field training program in Las Vegas. Six lateral new hires are currently attending the Nevada Highway Patrol specific academy in Carson City and will be assigned to Southern Command upon successful completion. Additionally the Division expects to hire 14 cadets for the basic recruit academy which begins February 2, 2004. There are currently 18 applicants in the background process for 19 vacant dispatch positions. Until the majority of the vacancies in both areas are filled with trained personnel, we will continue to struggle with manpower issues.

The Southern Command percentage of staffed traffic sergeant and trooper positions currently assigned to work the road dropped to 63.8% in November 2003 as compared to 68.9% in November 2002. The commercial staffing currently assigned to work the road is 42.3% down from 50% in November 2002. During the month of November 2003 there was a 13.5% increase in overall crashes as compared to November 2002. Even with the high vacancy rate, the Southern Command continues to see very positive improvements. These improvements are reflected in the overall activity level. Southern Command increased occupant restraint enforcement in November 2003 by 81.6%, hazardous moving by 31.2%, and speed enforcement by 24.5%, as compared to November 2002. Southern Command personnel increased total enforcement in November 2003 by 32.2%, as compared to November 2002, and decreased total enforcement by 4.6% over October 2003. Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner. I commend their hard work and dedication.

Southern Command personnel handled 1,008 crashes throughout November 2003 as compared to 888 total crashes in November 2002. This was an increase of 13.5%. The most notable change is in Fatal crashes. Fatal crashes went up 200%. Total persons killed went up 266.7%. In raw numbers there were a total of 9 Fatal crashes in November 2003 and 11 people died.

Southern Command Commercial Operations continue to increase their activity in many areas when compared to November 2002. Some notable areas of this trend include increases of 100% in hazardous moving violations, 63.3% increase in total safety inspections, 140.7% increase in total safety violations, and 116.7% increase in total overweight citations. With these efforts, Southern Command documented a 15.2% decrease in the overall number of commercial vehicle involved crashes. We investigated 67 total commercial crashes in the month of November 2003, as compared to 79 commercial vehicle crashes in November 2002. Of the commercial crashes investigated this month, 12 resulted in injuries, and the remainder were property damage only. There were no fatalities. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 6.6% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command in November 2003. The Southern Command will continue to focus on hazardous commercial moving and out of service violations.

Contents:

Crash Analysis	2
Field Enforcement	3
Staffing Hours	4
Ratios	6
Commercial Enforcement /	
Administrative Ops.	8
Personnel	10
Public Information	11
Projects	12

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	November 2003		November 2002	% Change		October 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	1008		888	13.5%		1047	-3.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	687		613	12.1%		714	-3.8%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	312		272	14.7%		328	-4.9%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	9		3	200.0%		5	80.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	54		44	22.7%		51	5.9%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	11		3	266.7%		6	83.3%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	4		1	300.0%		2	100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	4		1	300.0%		1	300.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2		0	200.0%		0	200.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		3	-300.0%
Total persons killed -- seatbelts not applicable	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	67		79	-15.2%		82	-18.3%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	55		59	-6.8%		60	-8.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	12		19	-36.8%		21	-42.9%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.9%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.4%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 80.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 6.6%

CRASH ANALYSIS

The Southern Command, in their continuous efforts to reduce accidents on roadways within their jurisdiction, has instituted a Target Enforcement Program. After reviewing the monthly statistical recap for the Southern Command, supervisors identify and target high accident locations and violations and combine that information into the Target Enforcement Program. This program then allows the supervisors the ability to assign troopers into these high accident areas to target accident causing violations. This program is extremely flexible and allows for the assignment of personnel to follow the ever changing accident picture.

During November 2003, Southern Command assigned a Target Enforcement Program to US95 from Martin Luther King Blvd. to Craig Rd. This corridor encompasses approximately 9 miles, or 5.4% of the roadway assigned to NHP, which is a major portion of the US95 Widening Project. This stretch of Highway accounted for approximately 18% of the total accidents that occurred within the Valley.

* In addition to the crashes listed above, the front office also completed 48 "office reports".

** The fatal crash report for October 2003 shows a change in the "Total persons killed" column. This change was a result of a subject from an October fatal crash that died in November.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	November 2003		November 2002	% Change		October 2003	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	54		44	22.7%		51	5.9%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	134		101	32.7%		102	31.4%
Other Arrests	734		690	6.4%		912	-19.5%
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	357		291	22.7%		322	10.9%
Speed violations	3200		2571	24.5%		3134	2.1%
Hazardous moving violations	2068		1576	31.2%		2212	-6.5%
Occupant restraint violations *	690		380	81.6%		725	-4.8%
Total violations [above violations included]	10121		7653	32.2%		10609	-4.6%
COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	26		13	100.0%		29	-10.3%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	181		106	70.8%		134	35.1%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	547		335	63.3%		539	1.5%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR Only	15		DNA	#VALUE!		DNA	#VALUE!
Total safety violations -- citation	337		140	140.7%		189	78.3%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2031		1865	8.9%		1523	33.4%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	142		78	82.1%		112	26.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	77		52	48.1%		46	67.4%
Total school buses inspected	139		223	-37.7%		313	-55.6%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	20		41	-51.2%		22	-9.1%
Total trucks weighed	138		974	-85.8%		171	-19.3%
Total overweight citations	26		12	116.7%		50	-48.0%
Total dyed fuel inspections	562		141	298.6%		434	29.5%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of drivers arrested for DUI during November was 0.152%. Drivers arrested prior to a crash had an average BAC of 0.147% and drivers arrested from a crash had an average BAC of 0.169%. A more in depth review found that approximately 11% of drivers charged with DUI were suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance. In addition, 10% of those arrested had been previously convicted of DUI. As a result of this, Southern Command has increased the Troopers' awareness of the importance of DUI enforcement as a method of reducing accidents.

Due to the increase in the number of injury and fatal crashes as compared to property damage only crashes, Southern Command has determined a need for an increased effort to raise occupant restraint compliance and speed enforcement.

Continued on page 5

STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
STAFFING	November 2003	November 2002	November 2003	November 2002	November 2003	November 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	149	161	95	111	63.8%	68.9%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	11	15	42.3%	50.0%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	4	5	80.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	November 2003		November 2002	% Change	October 2003	% Change
Annual leave	1799.5		1458	23.4%	2192	-17.9%
Compensatory leave	752.85		331	127.4%	653.5	15.2%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	967.5		1292.25	-25.1%	2065.9	-53.2%
Military leave	336		0	33600.0%	176	90.9%
Holiday off	908		392	131.6%	303.5	199.2%
Training	1659.83		2117.58	-21.6%	2027.75	-18.1%
Administrative leave	50		210	-76.2%	0	5000.0%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	9342		8650	8.0%	10380	-10.0%
Total work hours lost	15815.68		14450.83	9.4%	17798.65	-11.1%
OVERTIME	November 2003		November 2002	% Change	October 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2484		1951.48	27.3%	2340.38	6.1%
Compensatory overtime claimed	207.58		153.5	35.2%	187	11.0%
Total overtime hours	2691.58		2104.98	27.9%	2527.38	6.5%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	November 2003		November 2002	% Change	October 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	31140		33908	-8.2%	31140	0.0%
Work hours lost	15815.68		14450.83	9.4%	17798.65	-11.1%
Overtime	2691.58		2104.98	27.9%	2527.38	6.5%
Total hours worked	18015.9		21562.15	-16.4%	15868.73	13.5%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Numerical staffing numbers shown above reflect only those sergeants and troopers whose primary responsibilities include enforcement activity, crash investigations, commercial enforcement, or inspection functions. Command staff and sworn personnel assigned to other duties are not included as they have minimal impact on enforcement, accident reduction efforts, or commercial vehicle safety.

STAFFING / WORK HOURS

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

The Southern Command field staffing was unchanged from last month. During November 2002 we had three resignations from the sworn ranks. The November 2003 loss of road staffing due to leave and training exceeded the equivalent of 25 traffic trooper positions, which is just less than one-third of the staffed positions. This was an increase of 1 position lost last month due to leave and training.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

November staffing for Commercial Enforcement consisted of 11 commissioned troopers and sergeants, and 4 CVSI's. One trooper was on extended sick leave, one trooper was temporarily assigned to background investigations, one trooper was temporarily assigned to the Searchlight/Laughlin District, and one sergeant and one trooper were assigned to administrative duties. It should be noted that in previous Safestat reports the total commercial staffing included administrative and temporary assignments. These positions are not included as they have minimal direct impact on enforcement, accident reduction efforts, or commercial vehicle safety.

Currently, of those 11 commissioned troopers and sergeants, there are eight troopers and two sergeants assigned to urban Las Vegas Commercial Enforcement, and one trooper assigned to rural commercial enforcement.

OVERTIME

Overtime rose for the first time in months. This month overtime increased almost 28% compared to last year at this time. There was also an increase of 6.5% compared to last month. This is due to the Presidential visit and the Air Show.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY *Cont'd*

CRIMINAL INTERDICTION

During the month of November the Criminal Interdiction Team conducted 156 traffic stops and 35 motorist assists. During these traffic stops, 19 searches were conducted which resulted in the seizure of the following:

Methamphetamine	1080.9 grams	street value estimated at \$26,000.00
Marijuana	2,270 grams	street value estimated at \$5,000.00
Weapons	1 stolen firearm	concealed in a hydraulic compartment
Vehicles	1-2002 Cadillac Escalade	(with compartments)
Cash	\$2,572.00	

The Criminal Interdiction Team also participated in the 72 Hour Commercial "Roadcheck" that occurred on IR15 at the Sloan check site.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT

ACCIDENT RATIOS	
Ratio of crashes per staffed Traffic position	
Total	10.6
Property	7.2
Injury	3.3
Fatal	0.1
DUI	0.6
Commercial vehicle	0.7
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	
without seatbelts	0.9
with seatbelts	0.2

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per staffed Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.6
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.4
Other Arrests	7.7
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.8
Speed violations	33.7
Hazardous moving violations	21.8
Occupant restraint violations	7.3
Total violations	106.5

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

The Traffic Enforcement Ratios have been broken down further to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of monthly workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

Traffic troopers assigned to the rural areas of the Southern Command had a crash ratio of 1.9 crashes per staffed field operations position. One-Hundred citations were issued per staffed position and 0.9 DUI arrests were made per position.

In the Urban areas, the crash ratio was 13 crashes per staffed traffic position. Ninety-Five citations were issued per staffed field position and 2 DUI arrests were made per position.

RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT *Cont'd*

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	2.6
Other traffic violations - citations	*	18.1
Total safety inspections [all levels]		39.1
Terminal inspections TIP		1.1
Total safety violations -- citation	*	33.7
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.6
Total safety violations -- repair order		145.1
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.7
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		10.1
Average vehicles placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.3
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		5.5
Average drivers placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		9.9
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		1.4
Total trucks weighed	*	13.8
Total overweight citations	*	2.6
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	56.2
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.0

* Commercial sworn only

Commercial Operations has demonstrated some significant increases in the per officer ratios. This is a result of concentrating enforcement efforts at both the individual and squad levels. An example of this is, "Total safety inspections" ratio which reflects 39.1 per trooper for November, an increase from 27.0 for October. When comparing the ratios with the current crash information the efforts to maintain a high inspection ratio have impacted the crash statistics by keeping the number of mechanical related crashes to less than 1% of all commercial vehicle crashes.

Commercial drivers are at fault in approximately 46% of all commercial vehicle crashes. A renewed enforcement emphasis is now being directed toward hazardous moving violations. By increasing this enforcement ratio we anticipate a reduction in commercial crashes involving driver error.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

The Southern Command commercial section increased activity in most categories over the previous month. Although total inspection activity continues at or above established goals, hazardous moving and seatbelt violations continue to be areas needing attention and increased enforcement.

Total Commercial vehicle crashes decreased from 81 for the month of October, to 67 for the month of November. Of those 67 crashes, 55 were property damage, 12 were injury, and 0 were fatal. Of the 67 crashes, commercial vehicles were at fault in 35 of them with driver error resulting in 29, mechanical defect resulting in 4, and spilled/unsecured load resulting in 2. The remaining 32 crashes were not attributable to the commercial vehicle. 25 crashes involved single units or buses. 42 crashes involved tractor-trailer combinations. It is important to note that the Southern Command investigated 1008 total crashes for the month of November. The 67 commercial related crashes are roughly 6.5% of the 1008 total.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

EVIDENCE VAULT

The evidence vault Administrative Assistant II (AAII) position has been filled for approximately two months. This position has helped alleviate much of the workload. There was a 75% increase in items disposed of in November as compared to last month. A total of 145 items for 110 new cases were booked into the evidence vault. A breakdown of the items submitted found that 96.6% were submitted by NHP, 2.2% were submitted by Parole and Probation and 1% was submitted by NDI.

Currently the new AAII is scheduled to attend NCIC training. This certification is required to complete the research process for case clearing. The Las Vegas Municipal Court is also assisting the NHP by providing access to their case dispositions. This access will assist the Division with the disposal and destruction of evidence from adjudicated cases.

CONTRACT SERVICES

Contract service agreements had a significant increase during the month of November, recording 821.75 hours of contract time from 10 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Highway Patrol \$6,677.75 with \$63,921.75 still pending in overtime costs. This brings the NHP total contract service overtime for the fiscal year 2003/2004 to 1,998.75 hours from 55 contracts, which reimbursed a total of \$97,761.25. One major reason for the large increase in November was the Nellis Air Show contract.

COMMUNICATION CENTER

The Southern Command Communications Center continues to operate with 19 vacancies (Eighteen applicants are still in the background phase). The Communications Center handled 30,602 telephone calls, 134,905 radio transmissions and dispatched 16,840 incidents during November. This is down approximately 8% from the previous month, which is most likely the result of 3 Holidays which reduced commuter traffic on 3 normal week days.

Modifications are being made to the NHP radio system which will allow for a migration to the 800 Mhz radio system currently maintained by the Nevada Department of Transportation. This is the first step in a full transition to the 800 Mhz system.

The temporary transfer of allied agency radio users to the Northern Command will end during December. This increased workload will be absorbed while the Communications Center remains critically understaffed. The transfer is expected to result in increased overtime expenditures to maintain a minimum level of staffing.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS Cont'd

RECORDS SECTION

The records section had 695 visitors requesting services. The total number of visitors dropped 20% from October to November. This is partially due to the fact that the records section was closed for three holidays.

This section processed 1,022 crash reports during November; of which 48 were "office reports". Over 5,400 crash reports were mailed out to insurance companies, attorney offices, and local prosecutors.

In addition to the release of public records, 125 vehicles were released after being impounded for improper registration violations. This is a 17% decrease from October.

OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS

There were a total of eight hit and run accident reports taken at the front counter. In November, we cleared 4 hit and run reports from September, 12 from October and 2 from November. These results can be attributed to assistance received from the SCID (Southern Crash Investigation Detail).

COURT SERVICES SECTION

The Court Services Section received 228 bench warrants from area courts during November. Two hundred and fourteen warrants were cleared from the Criminal Justice Information System. This section also validated over 3,500 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness.

This section arranged one out-of-state extradition and 13 in-state transports

PERSONNEL

NEW HIRES

Mason Muir

Scott Scrivner

John Pentelei-Molnar

Timothy Case

Loren Lazoff

Chad Phaby

Todd Ellithorpe

Benjamin Leonard

Michael Diamond

Charles Haycox

Steve Helms

COMMENDATIONS

- A citizen expressed his thanks, for the professional manner in which Trooper C. Hoskins presented himself while conducting a follow up investigation at the hospital.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Dudley for his assistance and professionalism.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper Moses for his assistance on the highway.
- Two citizens wrote to thank Trooper Wolff for her excellent job with the Driver's Edge program.
- A citizen wrote to thank Trooper James for his professionalism at the scene of an accident.
- United Blood Services wrote to thank Melissa Berry for organizing a blood drive.
- Two Deputy Attorney General's wrote to thank Troopers Raab, S. Martin, and Sergeant Rikalo for the opportunity to participate in a ride-a-long.
- Troopers received commendation letters for their involvement in the air show at Nellis, A.F.B., and at the Las Vegas Speedway.
- A citizen wrote to thank Sergeant Mack for his assistance on US95 mm12.
- Two citizens wrote to thank Sergeant Johnson for her professionalism in filling a contract service request and an Amber Light application.
- Sergeant Johnson was commended for outstanding performance during the Nellis Air Show.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Driver's Edge: class 6 of 7

Over 200 teens and parents attended the 8 a.m. and Noon class. Instruction on DUI law and seatbelt usage was presented. Also utilized the Fatal Vision Goggles and the roll over simulator. Special guest, the Honorable Shelley Berkley, attended the class to show support.

November 8, 2003

8th Annual Veteran's Benefit Rod and Custom Show

Trooper Snow attended this function with Henderson P.D. and VFW Post 3848. He displayed the Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle, and handed out education pamphlets.

November 9, 2003

Driver's Edge: class 7 of 7

Over 250 teens and parents attended the last class of the year. Instruction on DUI law and seatbelt usage was presented. Also utilized the Fatal Vision Goggles and the roll over simulator.

November 9, 2003

Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman's Briefing

Fifty airmen were educated on traffic laws with special emphasis on the dangers of driving while intoxicated and seat belt safety.

November 10, 2003

The WB / CH 12 "Graduated Drivers licenses for Teenagers"

The WB ran several stories on the Graduated Drivers licenses for Teens after three Green Valley Teens were killed over the weekend. Focus on Driver's Edge and how the program can help. November 11, 2003

NHP-Crime Tracker 3 report:

NBC / CH 3 continue to run stories on State Troopers, focusing on J. Moses #391 and T. Ellithorpe #467 returning to the Highway Patrol. The recruitment phone number was listed with the story.

November 18, 2003

K.O. Knudsen Middle School

Trooper Pedraza #577 was requested to speak to a Middle School's Hispanic 6th and 7th grade students. So students would better understand the duties and authority of police. Trooper Pedraza was well received by the students and will return to the school for a follow up.

November 20, 2003

Project Child Safe

Lieutenant Governor Hunt along with the Nevada Highway Patrol and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department hosted a press conference for project Child Safe. Lt. Gov. Hunt gave a speech about the gun locks and presented a 109,000 locks to be disbursed throughout the community free of charge.

November 26, 2003

Nellis Air Force Base Air Show

Over 3,500 air show participants stopped by the NHP display which was staffed by Sergeant Olschlager. On display was: The new patrol sedan, Harley Davidson motorcycle, HazMat truck, and NHP airplane.

November 15 – 16, 2003

Nevada Highway
Patrol

Southern Command

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PROJECTS

Flu Shots:

In October 2003 arrangements were made with a local health care provider to provide Flu shots to personnel and their families. As a result of this there was a 50% decline in sick leave used for the month of November.

November 13 – 15, 2003, a 72 hour “Roadcheck” was conducted at the Sloan check site by commercial personnel from each of the three commands of the state. During the “Roadcheck”, a total of 483 safety inspections were conducted.

From these inspections the following actions were taken:

- ◆ 1203 safety violations were detected.
- ◆ 107 vehicles were placed out of service.
- ◆ 60 drivers were placed out-of-service.
- ◆ 182 CVSA Decals were placed on vehicles that passed the inspection.

The Northern Command provided the use of their Mobile Command Center and the Pre-pass trailer which automatically screens commercial vehicles approaching the check site. These vehicles are screened for licensing and safety ratings. Companies found with licensing problems or deficient safety ratings are given a red light and must enter the check site for screening.



Military Homecoming



Good judgment comes from experience, and often experience comes from bad judgment.

Rita Mae Brown